

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 23 No. 8

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Whole No. 275

## The Civil War In Dime Novels

by J. Edward Leithead



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Echoes of the Civil War's big guns and musketry—and yes, the old Rebel yell can be found in many old-time novels, from black-and-whites to colored covers. If this were September, 1883, and you wanted to spend a dime on reading matter, it couldn't be better invested than in a copy of War Library No. 1, Major Hotspur, or, Kilpatrick's Dashing Rider, by Marline Manly, just out! A rattling good story of the War Between the States; size of the novel, 8½ x 12, with a black-and-white cover illustration of undoubted excellence, and bearing the imprint of the Novelist Publishing Co. (Street & Smith).

Nothing in noveldom ever surpassed this War Library for tales of the Civil War, written mostly from the Union viewpoint, and covering not only well-known battles like Gettysburg, Shiloh, Antietam, Chickamauga and "The Wilderness", but also such a wealth of "unwritten history of the war" as to indicate considerable research on the part of the various authors. A highly skilled staff of writers was selected for the task of producing the 412 numbers of the Library and one special unnumbered issue, Life and Military Services of General U. S. Grant, priced at 20 cents, and written by W. Howard Van Orden (the real name of an author

who sometimes used the pseudonyms "Howard De Vere", "Paul Braddon" and "Orrin G. Welch.") He penned other biographies of generals in the Library, #158, General W. T. Sherman. A Story of His Life and Military Services and #176, General Phil H. Sheridan. A Story of His Life and Military Services.

Not by any means were all 412 issues of the War Library originals. #85, Major Hotspur, a repeat of #1, seems to begin the reprints, sandwiched between new stories. The next is #88, Shiloh, reprint of #6, then #90, Sharpshooter Dick, reprint of #8. This goes on until there are more reprints than originals, if any of the latter.

One of the most prolific writers of dime and nickel novels, Harry St. George Rathborne, who got his start with Publisher Norman L. Munro, authored #1 of the War Library as "Marline Manly", used the same pseudonym on #9, Prison Pen, #45, Clear Grit, #52, Marching On, #62, Fighting Joe Hooker, and so on. He switched to the pen name "Ward Edwards" to write #2, Blue or Gray, #6, Shiloh, #12, Sold for a Soldier, #60, A Yankee Middy, #67, In for the War, etc. He took the pen name "Major Hugh Warren" in writing #17, Stars and Stripes, which, re-

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printed later in the series, appears to be the only one under this pseudonym unless #150, *Life in Libby Prison*, by "Col. U. S. Warren" is a variation of "Major Hugh Warren".

Next he used an abbreviation of his own name, Harry St. George, in penning #46, *The Rival Couriers*, "Hugh Allen" in writing #48, *Down in Dixie*, "Lieutenant Keene" in authoring #56, *Black Cudjo*, "Aleck Forbes" in producing #75, *Skirmisher Sam*, "Duke Duncan" in penning #79, *Wilson's Creek*, "Wayne Miller" in writing #115, *Sheridan's Spy*.

T. C. Harbaugh wrote many of the series under the pseudonym "Major A. F. Grant"—#4, *On to Richmond*, #13, *True Blue*, #19, *Cannoneer Bob*, #26, *Iron and Steel*, #33, *Farragut's Spy*, #40, *Morgan's Rough Riders*, #47, *Before Petersburg*, etc. It's quite possible that Harbaugh, a top-notch writer of historical tales of both Civil War and Revolutionary War, used other pen names in the War Library. The names Captain Mark Wilton, Corporal Morris Hoyne, Morris Redwing, Major Walter Brisbane, Major Walter Wilmot, Anthony P. Morris, Col. Oram Eflor and John W. Southard appear often in the list of authors, but I'm unable to identify them as either real or assumed to conceal some well-known dime novel author.

Without attempting a complete (and perhaps tiresome) list of all that they contributed to the War Library, I do not know that "Bernard Wayde" or "Wade" was the pen name of Gerald Carlton, author of #15, *Fighting Pat*—possibly he used his own surname on #25, *Dashing O'Donohoe*, by Lieutenant Carlton; "Mon Myrtle" was really Maurice Walsh, author of #53, *Sword and Sash*, and while I'm not certain of his middle initial, he may be "M. C. Walsh", writing under his own name such tales as #119, *Down in Virginia* and #160, *Brave Ben*; J. M. Merrill was the real name of an author who also wrote for Beadle, one of his for the War Library being #97, *A Night in Dixie*; George W. Goode was the real name of a Beadle and Tousey author,

wrote #172, *The Fighting Fifth*; I believe that Edgar L. Vincent was the real name of the author of #11, *Before Donelson*. Apparently Ned Buntline, noted for his historical dime novels, wrote only one tale for the Library, #264, *Life in the Saddle*, and that under his own name, Col. E. Z. C. Judson. The same goes for Major Samuel Stone Hall ("Buckskin Sam"), who wrote #282, *Wild Bill*, the Union Scout of Missouri.

Along with the fictional heroes, there probably isn't a prominent historical figure of the Civil War whose name does not appear in one or more titles (I have mentioned several already): #44, *Sheridan's Ride*, #55, *Mosby's Trail*, #65, *Custer and His Men*, 71, *Out With Kilpatrick*, #124, *Shelby's Men*, #127, *Grant*, "The Hammerer", #132, *Under Little Mac* (McClellan—my grandfather was a top sergeant with him and later with Sherman, while his brother, my great-uncle, was a first lieutenant in Sheridan's cavalry and once held captive in Libby Prison, released on an exchange of officers), #136, *Major Pauline Cushman* (famous woman spy for the Union, who had exciting adventures in the far West after the war), #178, *John Brown's Raid*, #180, *Lincoln's Spy* (there are several issues about the Secret Service and Army detectives during the Rebellion, even a couple about war correspondents, #89, *Battle Smoke* and #241, *The War Reporter*), #227, *Prescott's Guerillas*, #233, *Phil*, the Scout, or, *A Fight for Beauregard's Dispatches*, 252, *Fremont*, the Pathfinder (what befell him as a Union general in Missouri), #255, *Stonewall Jackson's Dispatch Bearer* (this is a reprint of #103, with sub-title reversed), #257, *The Old Knapsack*, or, *Longstreet's Mad Charge at Knoxville* (General Longstreet was one of Lee's ablest generals), #262, *Old Brax*, the Sharpshooter, or, *Through Fire in Lee's Last Campaign* (the only time, I think, that General Lee's name appears in a title), #317, *Sherman at Atlanta*. Some titles toward the end of the Library are somewhat changed, so that, at first glance, they

look like new stories—which they are not. No matter, the War Library was tops in Civil War fact and fiction, on land and afloat, and even in the air, for #73 was *The Sky Scouts*, or, *Ballooning for the Union*.

A pocket edition of the War Library proved not as popular as its predecessor, ending with #12.

The Army and Navy Library, same type novel as the large-sized War Library and published by Street & Smith in 1884, ran to about 44 numbers. Civil War tales predominated; there were 22 of them among the first 28 issues, the other 6 consisting of 3 stories of the American Revolution, one of the Texan War for independence, one of the Mexican War and one of the Kentucky frontier. No doubt about there being plenty of reprints. #2 is a reprint of War Library #118, though the author is changed; #3 a reprint of War Library 116, author different; #6 a reprint of War Library #263, author the same; #13 a reprint of War Library #128, author the same; #14 a reprint of War Library #138, author the same; #16 a reprint of War Library #130, author the same; #18 a reprint of War Library #122, no change in author. These reprints, in most cases, are difficult to trace; just enough of the original War Library title is left to furnish a clue. I have a feeling that very few of the Civil War items in Army and Navy Library are new stories.

The Campfire Library (Street & Smith) had just one about the Rebellion so far as I can discover, #16, *Barnaby, the Sandhiller*, or, *The Mystery of the Yazoo Swamps*, by that excellent author, Dr. J. H. Robinson. There was one in Munro's Old Cap Collier Library, #398, *Sherman's March to the Sea*. And another in Munro's Ten Cent Novels #4, *The Hunted Unionist*, or, *The Fortunes of a Fugitive*, by Illion Constellano (real name).

There were Civil War stories in Beadle & Company's American Tales: #5, *Bob Brant, Patriot and Spy*. A Tale of the War in the West, by Edward Willett, #9, *The Prisoner of*

the Mill, or, *Captain Hayward's Body Guard*, by Lt. Colonel Hazeltine (battle of the Wilderness, although California Joe actually was not in the Civil War; same story printed as #192, Frank Starr's *American Novels*). More than these three tales about the Civil War were published in *American Tales*, but I have no list of them.

Dawley's New War Novels (T. R. Dawley) contained: #1, *Mosby, the Guerrilla*, #2, *Pauline, the Female Spy* (probably Pauline Cushman), #5, *Osgood, the Demon Refugee*, #6, *Cheatham, or, The Swamp Dragoon*, #7, *Perdita, or, The Demon Refugee's Daughter*, #8, *Larry, the Army Dog Robber*, #10, *Hawks, the Conscript*, #11, *Clarissa, the Conscript's Bride*. Of the eight issues of Dawley's *Camp and Fireside Library*, #1, *Incidents of Camp Life*, and #6, *Sue Munday, the Guerrilla Spy*, were Civil War items, and our editor of *ROUNDUP*, Edward T. LeBlanc has given us a thorough and interesting account of #6 (see *ROUNDUP* for July 1952). My grandmother knew just about every song, words and music, that was sung during the War Between the States, and the name Sue Munday strikes a memory gong, so he probably figured in a song of that day. Two important items appeared in Dawley's Ten Penny Novels: #10, *Kennedy, the Incendiary Spy*, and #12, *Quantrell, the Terror of the West*. The Quantrell item was reprinted as #12 of *Popular Series of Fiction, Fancy and Fact* (Ivers). Vintage of 1865, the Dawley output seemed to dwell on guerrilla raids, killings, etc. rather than the regular armies in blue and gray.

The Sibley Company publications had numerous Civil War items. Their Cricket Library had at least one, #4, *Tom Brown's Pluck*, or, *The Fortunes of a Soldier Boy*, by Major A. F. Grant (T. C. Harbaugh). The Gem Library contained the following and, I think, others besides:

Vol. 1, #4, *Jerry, the Weasel*, or, *The Boy Spy's Mission*. By Louis Bernard.

#11, *Cavalry Curt: A Story of*

Sherman's March to the Sea.

#35, Slippery Milt, the Scout, or, Running the Gantlet of Island No. Ten. By Lt. Henry Downs.

Vol. 2, #8, General Dixon's Boy Aide, or, Ned Trinkner in the Army. By Lt. W. Atkinson.

#20, Harvey Dayre, the Union Spy, or, Tracked for His Life. By Major A. F. Grant.

#26, Captain Jack, the Union Spy, or, In Vicksburg and Out. By Harold T. Gray.

#28, same as Vol. 1, #4.

Sibley Company's Golden Library published as #43, A Young Blue Jacket, or, Enlisted for the War, by Robert E. Morse, and reprinted #4 of the Cricket Library, Tom Brown's Pluck, as #69.

When Frank Tousey replaced 66 issues of Wide Awake Library (outlaw stories about the James Boys, Jack Sheppard, Dick Turpin, Claude Duval, etc.), the substitute tales were nearly all concerned with the Civil War; to mention a few, #25, The Young Sergeant, 30, Infantry Dave, #31, The Eagle Bearer, #33, Cavalry Jack at Champion Hill, #62, Union Dick, the Yankee Spy.

A lot of these were printed in Tousey's Five Cent Weekly Library, the Cavalry Jack and Union Dick stories having as their setting many historic battlegrounds—#27, Cavalry Jack at Corinth, #29, Union Dick in the Seven Days' Fight, #31, Cavalry Jack at Murfreesboro, #42, Union Dick at Gettysburg, etc. The authors were Col. Ralph Fenton, Richard R. Montgomery, Ralph Morton, Philip Murdock and Percy B. St. John, all pen names so far as I know. Montgomery was a pseudonym of Francis Worcester Doughty, and we can be certain that his Civil War stories, like everything else he wrote, were second to none.

In the long runs of story papers, I haven't much data, but no doubt plenty of Civil War tales were published, many making a first appearance as serials and later showing up as complete novels in the various weeklies. Tousey's Boys of New York serialized in #769 to 776, The Boy

Cavalry Scout, or, Life in the Saddle. A Thrilling Story of the Civil War, by Kit Clyde; and in #965 to ? The Boy Captain of the 71st New York, or, Fighting for the Old Flag. A True Story of the Rebellion, by N. S. Wood (both later reprinted in Pluck and Luck, #290 and 647, the last one with the title reversed). In Happy Days (continuation of Boys of New York) #58 to 66 appeared The Girl He Left Behind, or, The Hero of the 7th, by Ralph Morton, which could be about Custer's cavalry in the Civil War or in the Indian wars—not sure. It was serialized again in the back pages of one of Tousey's weeklies, but I've never heard of its being issued as a complete novel. There was an installment of Jack Mosby, the Guerrilla King, or, Riding and Raiding in the War of the Rebellion, by Col. Ralph Fenton, in Happy Days #994—I don't know how many other issues. It is here labeled, The Story of a Boy Spy of the Union Army, but California Joe had a prominent part and it was later reprinted in Pluck and Luck #558.

The Boys of New York Pocket Library #190 was General Grant's Boy Spy, or, The Hero of Five Forks, by Ralph Morton, which also appeared in the Boys' Star Library #121 and All Around Weekly #35. In the Golden Weekly (continuation of Tousey's Young Men of America) were serialized in #3 to 10, The Drummer Boy's Secret, or, Oath Bound on the Battlefield, by Col. Ralph Fenton and in #11 to 18, The Boy Balloon Spies, or, The Sky Scouts of the Rebellion, by Captain George Granville (both reprinted in Pluck and Luck, #377 and 565, the latter with title changed to The Signal Service Boys, or, Fighting Above the Clouds. Golden Hours (N. L. Munro) serialized Sherman's Young Scout, or, Marching Through Georgia, by John De Morgan, in #181 to ?, and the same story, with slightly altered title, seems to have been reprinted in Pluck and Luck #392.

I have no information on Civil War stories in Street & Smith's Boys of America or Good News, but regarding their New York Weekly I can re-

fer to six Civil War stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. published in that story paper, almost forgotten and brought to light by Mr. Wm. M. Burns in his excellent article on the New York Weekly in ROUNDUP for May 1949. The titles, as listed by Mr. Burns, were: The Boy Scout. A Tale of Virginia in 1861, A Brave Irish Boy. A Story of Kentucky, The Boy Substitute, or, The Young Wisconsin Volunteer of 1861, The Boy Guide of Rich Mountain. A Story of West Virginia, Johnny Wilson, or, The Little Drummer Boy of 1861, and A Street Arab at the Seat of War in 1861. See Burns' article for the date of issue of each of these stories. I think Alger's Young Captain Jack also had a Civil War background, and probably it was serialized in some story paper before book publication.

There were just two colored cover weeklies devoted to the subject of the Civil War, only one lasting over a year, the other much less than that.

Red, White and Blue (Street & Smith) was a 7 x 10 weekly, "Army and Navy war stories of bravery of boy heroes who wore the blue and the gray", running 59 issues, 1896 to 1897. The "Beverly Kennon" who signs these stories was W. A. Morris, and he gave them non-partisan treatment, putting hero Phil Stirling in the Union Cavalry—#2, Trooper Phil, or, The Adventures of a Young Recruit, #8, Phil at Bull Run, or, The Charge of the Fire Zouaves, #23, Trooper Phil's Ruse, or, With Grant in Tennessee, #40, The Girl Spy of Richmond, or, Phil's Mysterious Comrade—and his cousin, hero Ralph Stirling, in the Confederate Navy—#7, Ralph in Action, or, "Tween Decks on the Merrimac, #15, Ralph's First Command, or, The Cruise of the Destroyer, #17, Ralph on a Blockade Runner, #21, Ralph on the Alabama, or, Fighting a Mutiny. Red, White and Blue, after #59, became Adventure Weekly, with Phil and Ralph, not a day older apparently, fighting in a war that occurred forty years later, the Boxer war in China. Three Phil Stirling stories were reprinted in Do and Dare, #52, Phil Stirling, #58,

Phil Stirling's Loyalty, #65, Phil Stirling's Secret Commission.

The shorter-lived Tousey publication, Blue and Gray Weekly, Stories of Brave Northern and Southern Boys in the Civil War, regular 8 x 11 format, was a better series historically and pictorially than Red, White and Blue, that fine artist for the Tousey weeklies, whose name, so far as I know, is still unknown to Brotherhood members, doing all the covers. "Lt. Harry Lee" was a pseudonym for George W. Brown, who wrote the whole series. Again we have the non-partisan treatment, old friends Jack Clark and Will Prentiss taking sides with the Union and the Confederacy respectively. Some good titles in this weekly, which began publication in August 1904 and ran to 32 issues: #9, Out With Grant, or, The Boys in Blue in Tennessee, #10, At Fair Oaks, or, The Boys in Gray Winning Out, #13, At Fort Donelson, or, The Boys in Blue's Great Charge, #14, Held at Bay, or, The Boys in Gray Baffled, #15, At Pittsburg Landing, or, The Boys in Blue's Greatest Battle, #16, Leading the Line, or, The Boys in Gray's Best Work, #25, Saddle and Sabre, or, The Boys in Blue's Hard Ride, #26, At Cedar Mountain, or, The Boys in Gray With Stonewall Jackson, #29, Up the Yazoo, or, The Boys in Blue With Sherman.

"General James A. Gordon" was a pseudonym used by Tousey on most of the war stories reprinted in Pluck and Luck—I have mentioned several of them previously, will list the rest: #31, Bushwhacker Ben, or, The Union Boys of Tennessee, reprinted again as #531 and 1337, the pen name "Col. Ralph Fenton" being used instead of "Gordon". #35 was Happy Jack, the Daring Spy, reprinted again as #541 and 1342, #307, Up from the Ranks, or, From Corporal to General, #333, Shiloh Sam, or, General Grant's Best Boy Scout, #350, Sharpshooter Sam, the Yankee Boy Spy, or, Winning His Shoulder-Straps, #591, The Gun Boat Boys, or, Running the Batteries of Vicksburg.

Street & Smith's Brave and Bold Weekly printed only one Civil War

story that I know of, though there may have been others: #86, Prisoners of War, or, Jack Dashaway's Rise from the Ranks, by "Old Tecumseh."

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of Edward T. LeBlanc and Ralph F. Cummings in gathering the titles for this article.

Mr. Lofts writes that the line in the first column on page 49, DNRU #273 reading "when the halfpenny Union Jack started in 1904" should read "when the Penny Union Jack started in 1904".

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 8 George French, Kezar Falls, Maine, summer address
- 196 Herbert Leckenby, c/o York Duplicating Services, 7 The Shambles, York, England (New Member)
- 85 Robert Conahay, Jr., 270 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y. New address
- 111 Mrs. H. B. Patten, 822 39th Ave. San Francisco 21, Calif. New address
- 200 T. S. Ransom, 344 Front St., Belleville, Ont., Canada (New member)

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Wanted—Old religious books by Anna Shipton, Jack Schorr, 11572 So. Cypress St., Orange, Calif.

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The next issue of the Round-up will contain "The Bandit Brothers of Old Missouri" by J. Edward Leithead.

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Roy E. Morris  
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### WANTED

Data wanted on "Beverly Kennon" (Walter A. Morris) author of Red, White & Blue. Any newspapers, clippings on this author. Also wanted a picture of this author. Who has any-thing on this author?

Write to Roy B. Van Devier  
95 West South Street, Akron 11, Ohio

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Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.